

League of Women Voters *Duluth* • 32 East First Street, Duluth, MN 55802 •



2020 General Election Dates



2020 Early Voting Dates

Returning your ballot by mail

It must be postmarked on or before Election Day (November 3, 2020) and received by your county within the next seven calendar days (November 10). Return your ballot by mail or package delivery service (such as FedEx or UPS). Your ballot will not count if it is received after the November 10 deadline.

Returning your ballot in person

You can also return your ballot in person to one of the drop boxes at the City or County Election Offices by Monday, November 2 at 5:00 pm.. You may *not* drop your ballot off at your polling place on election day.

Last day to vote early in person: Monday, November 2

Election Day: Tuesday, November 3

Visit these websites for more information

Duluth City Clerk

<https://duluthmn.gov/city-clerk/elections-voter-services/voter-services/>

St. Louis County

<https://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/departments-a-z/auditor/elections-voting#30111204-in-person-absentee-voting-locations>

Please share this voting information with friends and family.

League of Women Voters of Duluth Holiday Social Cancelled



Sadly, due to COVID-19, we are not having our Holiday Social this year. The committee looked at all options, but none seemed safe or conducive to social interaction.

If you have renewed your League of Women Voters of Duluth membership, thank you!

If you have not, please renew today!!

See page 3 for more membership information.



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Our Mission

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Officers

Co-President	Candy Winkler
Co-President	Sandy Grandmaison
Secretary	Gwen Thorson
Treasurer	Nancy Aldridge
Editor	Julie Seidelmann

Calendar

November

- 11-3 General Election
- 11-9 Membership Committee Meeting
- 11-11 New Member Meet and Greet
- 11-14 Cross Cultural Committee Meeting
- 11-16 Natural Resources Committee Meeting
- 11-19 LWV Duluth Book Club



In Honor of.....

A donation to League of Women Voters of Duluth has been received in honor of Candy Winkler. We are thankful for her leadership of LWV Duluth these last few years. It is an honor and a pleasure to work with such a capable leader.
Thanks Candy!!

President's Letter

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

We are on the homestretch! For months, League of Women Voters of Duluth has been busy preparing for the election on Tuesday, November 3rd. League members have been diligently working on Get Out the Vote efforts. They have been active in the community doing voter registration and providing information about mail-in voting. They have been working to inform voters about their choices through candidate forums whenever possible.

There is no doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic has created barriers to getting information out, but the League has persisted in their work. A huge THANK YOU to all of the League members who have been so committed to these grassroots efforts.

Now it's up to you – if you haven't already, then please get out and VOTE. The stakes have never been higher for everyone, but especially for women! Study your candidates and cast your vote ~ we hope you have been provided with the information you need to make the best choice for you! If you are voting in person, remember to wear your mask and practice social distancing. Poll workers have been carefully trained to assist you. The Minnesota Secretary of State has taken steps to make polling locations as safe as possible, including curbside voting, which allows you to cast your ballot without leaving your vehicle. Every effort will be made to keep polling places free of partisan and political messaging. If you don't know your polling place, you can find this on MNVOTES.org. Don't forget that Minnesota ranked first in voter turnout nationally, and you can be part of our local effort to repeat that accomplishment!

To every LWV member who helped with Get Out the Vote Efforts, thank you again for your dedication. Your efforts have been important and are deeply appreciated! The League is committed to providing the information our community needs to be able to vote knowledgeably. We couldn't do this without our members – in the midst of a pandemic, they have been out in the community because they believe so strongly in the importance of this right that women worked so hard to attain 100 years ago. Do your part – exercise your rights and VOTE!

In solidarity,
Candy Winkler
Co-President

LWV Duluth Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement

League of Women Voters of Duluth realizes that creative and innovative policies and practices are forged out of diverse points of view. We believe that diverse perspectives are necessary for responsible and representative decision making. Let us pause to acknowledge our commitment to welcome and facilitate diversity, equity and inclusion in all aspects of our work. We strive to include people from a mix of abilities and backgrounds in all of our activities

Meet and Greet for New LWV Duluth Members

**A virtual Meet and Greet
will be held via Zoom
Wednesday, November 11, 2020
5:00 to 6:00 p.m.**



This is an opportunity to get acquainted with the LWV organization, and learn how to get the most from your membership in the coming year. If you are a new member you will automatically be sent a Zoom link for the Meet and Greet. If you have a friend interested in joining the LWV or you as a member would like to review the opportunities available, please contact Theresa O'Gara.

Please direct all questions or link requests to Theresa via her email: tntogara@gmail.com.

Attention All LWV Duluth Members!



A Big THANK YOU goes out to all members who have already renewed their LWV membership! Your membership ensures that our National, State and Local LWV organizations are able to continue working to protect our democracy. This past year vital work to empower voters and advocate for issues such as racial justice, clean water and the equality of women has been accomplished. To ensure you meet the National and State Membership Deadlines, we ask that you renew prior to December 15, 2020.

You may renew by mail, by filling out the membership renewal form on the back of this newsletter and mailing it with your check to Nancy Palmer; 444 Hartley Pl.; Duluth, MN 55803. You may renew online by going to the LWV Duluth website <http://www.lwvduluth.org/join.html> and follow the detailed instructions.

To meet the National and State, 2020-21 membership deadlines , please renew prior to December 15, 2020.

Full Membership Scholarships are now available. If you or a friend would like to obtain a scholarship, simply check the appropriate box on the application form.

****Please remember to indicate if you would like to receive a printed copy of our newsletter.
To ensure you meet the National and State Membership Deadlines,
we ask that you renew prior to December 15, 2020.**

Submitted by Theresa O-Gara

Why I am Member by JT Haines

I think the biggest reason I am a member of the League of Women Voters is because some of the people I trust most in our community are among the League's leadership, and I want to support and be a part of their efforts.

I also really appreciate the services the League provides in bolstering our fragile democracy and in educating me and my neighbors about our choices for elected office.

Thank you!

Welcome New LWV Duluth Members



Verna Thornton
Margaret Kirtley-Sternberg
Vanni Hayden
Kimberly Lakhan
Jamie Alexander
Peg Oman
Nancy Rova
Natalie Smith

Voter Service Committee

Looking Back Moving Forward

The election will soon be over. We might be elated, in a fetal position or just exhausted, but we need to feel good about what we have accomplished. We faced down the numerous unexpected and unprecedented barriers which took us out of our comfort zones and caused us to take some serious if mitigated risks to get the word out and get the vote out.

We modeled the possible and people took notice. Our efforts were seen as creative and inspiring by our peers in partnering organizations, and they were. There are more stories to be told, and I hope that I can share them with you in the January Voter. Right now, it is time to wrap up 2020 and look ahead reinvigorated by lessons learned because our work is never done. Voter disenfranchisement is systemic, and we are the frontline workers and first responders who protect voters and their right to vote. We cannot look away, we must look forward.

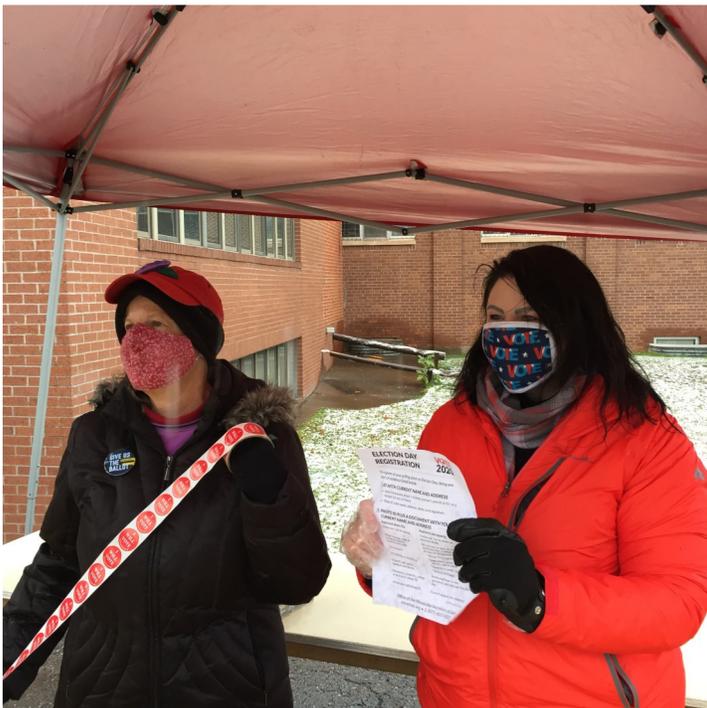
Submitted by Ellen Wiss

On behalf of Voter Services -- Candidate Forums:



It was a challenge to conduct candidate forums this fall, but we did our best and learned much along the way. The Voter Service Committee followed guidance provided by the LWV MN and only held forums in collaboration with PACT TV and filmed in their studio. We were strongly discouraged from conducting any forums over Zoom or other virtual platforms. We are grateful for the partnership with PACT TV. They were generous with their time and expertise, and they put measures in place to keep all participants safe. And thank you to the LWV Duluth members who assisted us by writing and re-writing questions for the forums. In the coming weeks, the LWV MN intends to convene a task force of voter service chairs with the following goal: "to debrief and draft a set of best practices and guidelines based on our collective experiences." This period of reflection will be an important step. This pandemic was both an unprecedented and fluid situation, and there is more that we can learn from what worked and what did not.

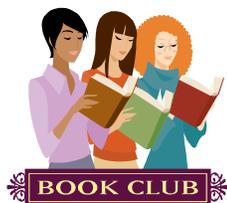
Submitted by Mary Faulkner



Andrea Gelb and Meg Litts register voters in the rain and snow at the Family Freedom Center's outdoor BBQ, mask give away and voter registration.

Opportunities to Make a Difference; Become Involved in a LWV Duluth Committee
Check website at www.lwvduluth.org or E-News emails for updates.

Committee	Contact	Next Meeting Date
Voter Service: Registration & New Citizens	Ellen Wiss mewiss62@gmail.com Candy Winkler: candywinkler49@gmail.com	Meets with whole Voter Service Committee on as needed basis
Voter Service: Forums	Mary Faulkner: faulkner.marykatherine@gmail.com Pat Castellano Castellanop4@gmail.com	As needed
International Relations	Liz Taylor 393-0703 (cell)	Contact Liz about to talk about becoming involved.
Membership	Theresa O’Gara 724-4821 (home) Barb Johnson 218-879-1890	Monthly meeting, Monday, November 9, 10 am via Zoom
Citizens in Action, Saturday, January 30, 2021	Rosie Loeffler-Kemp 341-2014 Ellen Wiss 612-310-9797	Meetings begin in November Contact Rosie
Natural Resources	Sally Munger 728-0711 (home) Gay Trachsel 728-5478 (home)	Monthly meeting; Monday, November 16, 5:00 pm via Zoom
Newsletter Mailing	Sally Munger 218-728-0711 Gail Schoenfelder 218-310-8678	Generally last Wednesday of the month @ place TBD. Call Sally for information
Observer Corps	Coordinator is needed	Depends on Board or Commission
Cross Cultural	Janet Kennedy 218-349-8057 Gail Schoenfelder 218-310-8678	Monthly meeting, Saturday, November 14, 10 - noon via Zoom. Beth Bartlett continues to discuss “My Grandmother’s Hands”
Book Club	Gay Trachsel 728-5478 (home)	Thursday, November 19 (due to Thanksgiving), 6:30 pm via Zoom. “A Woman of No Importance” by Sonia Purcell
Plant & Book Sale, Saturday June 12	Gail Schoenfelder Gail4duluth@gmail.com 310-8678 (cell)	Email Gail with intent to donate plants or books and/or to volunteer day of the sale
Communications	Julie Seidelmann 348-1209 (cell) Gwen Thorson 624-4756 (home)	As needed
Equali-TEA Possibly Spring 2021	Gail Nouska 218-206-4682 Newska519@hotmail.com Jean Farmakes 218-724-4186 jfarmake@yahoo.com	Contact Jean or Gail
Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women of Influence • Holiday Social • Annual Meeting 	Sandy Grandmaison, 348-7589 srgrandmaison@gmail.com	Contact Sandy if you are interested in helping with any of the noted events.



LWV Duluth "The Sisters" Book Club



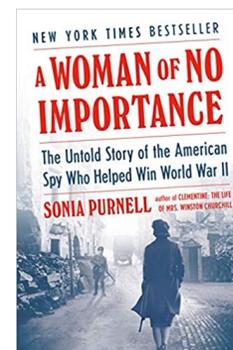
Thursday, November 19
Date change due to Thanksgiving
6:30 pm
Zoom Meeting

Book: A Woman of No Importance
 Author: Sonia Purcell

"A compelling biography of a masterful spy, and a reminder of what can be done with a few brave people -- and a little resistance." - NPR

Questions: Gay Trachsel. Gaytrachsel420@gmail.com or 218-728-5478

Zoom information will be sent out prior the meeting



Observers' Reports

Duluth Human Rights Commission, October 14, 2020

Five members of the Commission along with Carl Crawford, the Human Rights Officer for the city, convened on October 14 for their monthly meeting. There are several seats vacant and they are trying to add to their number.

Public Comment: Lisa Fitzpatrick commented about a group that is trying to create an ordinance to add a provision to the City Charter that would grant "Rights of Nature" for the St. Louis River Estuary. This would involve a petition and a referendum.

Announcements: A judge ruled that schools must allow students to use the locker room matching their gender identity. An effort is ongoing in MN to provide more training for child welfare workers about the Indian Child Welfare Act. Native children are 18 times more likely in MN to have contact with the child welfare system. This is one of the highest rates in the nation.

Committee Reports: Commissioner Mark Hakes is drafting a statement declaring racism a public health emergency in the City of Duluth. He will speak to the Indigenous and African American Commissions and the Mayor's office to get input.

There was concern about whether the ISD is providing adequate support for students with special needs (students with disabilities, LBGQT and homeless students) during this time of isolated learning. Federal agencies have been instructed to stop all diversity and inclusion training until they are approved. One member reported that universities are putting DEI programs on hold because funding may be cut.

Submitted by Polly Edmunds

Observers' Reports Continued on page 7

Observers' Reports (Continued)

Natural Resources Commission (via WebEx), October 7, 2020

Natural Resources Management Program Plan (NRMPP): Jason Naber reported initial steps toward a first-ever comprehensive plan for Duluth to manage our natural resources. Jason is a Biologist/Lead Ecologist for Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc. ([EOR](#)), contracted to help define strategies, priorities, funding mechanisms, and how best to work with existing partners, such as [One Watershed/One Plan](#).

John Swenson, of UMD's Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences, presented "**Bluff to Beach: Sand sources, sinks, and pathways in far western Lake Superior – implications for the genesis and evolution of Minnesota Point**", adding depth to Anna Hess's September Dune Restoration report. Park Point is a 1000-year-old barrier island, which separates Lake Superior from the St. Louis River Estuary - the river mouth "drowned" due to post-glacial Lake floor rebound. South Shore bluff erosion is the dominant source of natural sand deposition today, offset by storm erosion. Current problems result from increasing lake levels and storm severity and frequency, which increase erosion, and breakwaters (primarily the Superior entry), which trap sand flow and "starve the barrier". John described barrier islands as "one of the most dynamic/ephemeral landforms on earth", and noted that "geologic literature is replete with examples of barrier systems reaching 'tipping point' from which there is no recovery." Beach nourishment with dredged sands, riprap, etc. can help, but partial armoring "will simply shift the locus of erosion towards the center of the barrier". Other options include taking sand from the Lake floor, and piping sand across the Superior entry. A comprehensive long-term plan is needed to preserve Minnesota Point.

Natural Resource Coordinator Report: Diane Desotelle

Invasive species control projects, including restoration and replanting, continue. Public virtual overview of Hartley

Native Plant Community Management Plan set for October 21.

The city's deer hunting season has begun.

Hawk Ridge is seeing lots of raptors and people, despite COVID-reduced education.

Foresters Report: Clark Christensen

Addition of two park maintenance workers brings number of full-time staff to the most ever.

Community Forestry and AmeriCorps members help tree inventory, outreach & education.

Tree planting is wrapping up with about 20 trees to be overwintered in a gravel bed.

Ash removals will continue into winter.

Directors Report: Jim Filby-Williams

Property parks & libraries layoffs will end by January 1st.

Three different approaches to shoreline restoration are taking shape:

Ledges: surrender eroding trail, no plans to reconstruct, land resorts to Ledges

Brighton Beach: obliterate infrastructure close to shoreline, naturalize paved space, construct new road couple hundred feet inland

River: resiliently rebuild in same location (not subject to same forces as lake)

\$300,000 from FEMA (early 2021) will help identify vulnerable shoreline, potential solutions.

Announcements, Questions:

Trout Unlimited invested thousands of dollars in Coffee Creek restoration, so opposes Enger Golf Course development due to potential harm to the creek's cold water fishery.

US Steel and Federal partners will add 1.6 miles to Heritage Trail. An interpretive plan (cultural, ecological history) is being developed, though community engagement and identifying priorities and resources are difficult without being together in person.

League of Women Voters of Duluth
32 East First Street
Duluth, MN 55802

Return Service Requested

MEMBERSHIP FORM/RENEWAL FORM
Membership Renewals due by Sept. 30

Date: _____

Name: _____ email _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____ 2nd Address: _____

Membership (Check one)

- Individual \$65
- Student/Limited Income \$20
- Full Scholarship \$0
- Household \$100 (2 members living at same address)
 - Name of additional household member: _____
 - E-mail of additional household member: _____
 - Phone number of additional household member: _____
- Additional support: \$20 \$40 \$60 \$100 Other Amount: _____
- I want to donate \$20 to sponsor a limited income member.

Total enclosed: _____

All members with an e-mail address will receive the Voter newsletter by e-mail. Do you also wish to receive a print copy of the Voter newsletter? _____yes _____no

**Make check payable to LWV Duluth & mail to:
Nancy Palmer, 444 Hartley Pl., Duluth, MN 55803
OR**

To pay online, go to our website: lwvduluth.org